



Abstract of th Disclosure

ent  
B5  
Q6

A near-field optical probe has a cantilever having a first main surface and a second main surface opposite the first main surface. A base supports the cantilever at the first main surface. A tip extends from the second main surface of the cantilever and has a microscopic aperture at an end thereof. The tip and the cantilever are formed of a transparent material having a high transmissivity relative to a wavelength of light generated or detected by the microscopic aperture. A shade ~~B~~ film is formed on the second main surface of the cantilever and on a surface of the tip except for the microscopic aperture.